HEPATITIS C IN CANADA: PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS ARE THE 1ST POINT OF SCREENING

WHY SCREEN FOR HEPATITIS C?
Hepatitis C is a liver disease which can progress to cirrhosis, liver cancer and ultimately death from liver failure.

New effective treatments are available!

Screen for early detection and intervention.

250,000 - 400,000 CANADIANS HAVE HEPATITIS C1

44% DON'T KNOW THEY HAVE IT1

WHY SCREEN FOR HEPATITIS C?

Why Screen for Hepatitis C?


RISK-BASED SCREENING ALONE IS INEFFECTIVE

Risk-Based Screening:
A) Illicit injection or intranasal drug use or shared drug paraphernalia (past or present)
B) Born or resident in a region where hepatitis C is more common (i.e.: Central, East and South Asia, Australasia and Oceania, Eastern Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa and North Africa/Middle East)
C) Blood, blood products or an organ transplant before July 1990 in Canada
D) Needle stick involving hepatitis C positive blood
E) Signs of liver disease (i.e.: abnormal liver enzyme tests) or other infectious diseases (i.e.: hepatitis B, HIV, etc.)
F) Kidney/renal dialysis treatment
G) Children born to hepatitis C positive mothers
H) Tattoos or body piercings
I) Risky sexual activity (i.e.: multiple partners, traumatic or rough sex, etc.)
J) Shared personal care items with someone who has hepatitis C (i.e.: razors, toothbrush, etc.)

The Canadian Liver Foundation recommends adding Birth-Cohort Screening:

BORN: 1945-1975

ALL ADULTS

Probability of identifying undiagnosed Hepatitis C

THE CANADIAN LIVER FOUNDATION RECOMMENDS ADDING BIRTH-COHORT SCREENING3

RESPOND • How to test

Step 1

HCV Antibody Test
(detects hepatitis C antibodies in the blood)

Presumptive hepatitis C infection

No hepatitis C antibody detected

Step 2

HCV RNA Test
(detects hepatitis C virus in the blood)

Hepatitis C infection

No hepatitis C infection

Resolve • What to do after testing

Referral for Care and Treatment

Refer to your preferred specialist or search for a specialist in your area at www.liver.ca/liverdocs

Evaluation/Monitoring

Follow-up with additional testing according to test results noted above.

Screen for mental health/substance use disorders, and if present, treat or refer as appropriate. Ongoing mental health or substance use disorders should not exclude patients from being immediately referred for treatment.